

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**SENT TO D.C.**

4-14-06

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name **Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel**

other names/site number **First Baptist Congregational Church**

**2. Location**

street & number **1613 West Washington Boulevard**

\_\_\_\_ Not for publication

city or town **Chicago**

\_\_\_\_ vicinity

state **Illinois**

code **IL**

county **Cook** code **031**

zip code **60612**

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally \_\_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Walter L. Wheeler / SHPO  
Signature of certifying official

4-11-06  
Date

**Illinois Historic Preservation Agency**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_  
American Indian Tribe

Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel  
Name of Property

Cook, IL  
County and State

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):	_____	_____

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#### 5. Classification

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Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>0</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>0</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>0</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>0</u> objects
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register      N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel**  
Name of Property

**Cook, IL**  
County and State

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**Religion: Religious Facility**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

**Religion: Religious Facility**

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century: Gothic**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation **Limestone**

Roof **Slate**

Walls **Limestone, Brick**

other **Limestone**

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel**

**Cook, IL**

Name of Property

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**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

**Architecture**

Period of Significance      **1869 - 1871**

Significant Dates      **1869, 1871**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)      **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation      **N/A**

Architect/Builder      **Randall, Gurdon O.; Wheelock, Otis**

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel**

**Cook, IL**

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository **Chicago Historical Society; Chicago Public Library; Archives, First Baptist Congregational Church; Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia Presbyterian Church.**

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreeage of Property **Less than 1 acre**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1 **16 444628 4637011** 3 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel**

Name of Property

**Cook, IL**

County and State

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title	<b>Anna Willis, Project Manager; Wanda Washington, Assistant Project Manager/ Donna Harris</b>	date	<b>September 2005</b>
organization	<b>First Baptist Congregational Church/ Heritage Consulting Inc.</b>	telephone	<b>312/243-8047</b>
street & number	<b>1613 West Washington Boulevard/ 921 West Addison Street</b>	zip code	<b>60612</b>
city or town	<b>Chicago</b>	state	<b>Illinois</b>

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:  
Continuation Sheets

Maps  
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs  
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	<b>First Baptist Congregational Church, Reverend George W. Daniels, Senior Pastor</b>		
street & number	<b>1613 West Washington Boulevard</b>	telephone	<b>312/243-8047</b>
city or town	<b>Chicago</b>	state	<b>Illinois</b>
		zip code	<b>60612</b>

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS Form 10-900-a  
OMB No. 1024-0018  
(8-86)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

Narrative Description

Union Park Congregational Church, currently the First Baptist Congregational Church, and Carpenter Chapel are located on the southwest corner of Ashland and Washington Boulevard at 60 North Ashland Avenue. The church was designed and constructed in 1869-1871 by the prolific architect Gurdon P. Randall; the chapel was completed in 1869 and designed by Chicago architect Otis Wheelock. The property sits on lots 1-10 in Carpenter's subdivision in the county of Cook, City of Chicago, Illinois. It is a prime example of the Gothic Revival style.

The Church

Union Park Congregational Church faces Union Park, which provides recreation and green space to the Near Westside community. The church is accessible to public transportation, in close proximity to major health facilities, major universities, and the United Center and only fifteen minutes from the loop, the Magnificent Mile, city hall, and the financial district of Chicago. Social activism has characterized this congregation since its founding in 1851 by the abolitionists. Subsequently, the church continues to play a vital role in the religious, political, and social arenas in Chicago.

The church is quite large with a seating capacity of 1500. Because of the nature of congregational church service, the building is almost square in plan; the transept is extended but slightly out from the nave in the form of a Latin cross. The church is an important early surviving example of the auditorium or amphitheatre sanctuary type seating arrangement that was widely influential in church architecture. Although it is Gothic in style, the Gothic elements are treated quite freely and in a manner similar to other church edifices of the 1870s and 1880s mainline protestant denominations during the years after the Civil War.

First Baptist Congregational Church is three stories tall with a basement and a spire reaching over 200 feet in height from the ground. The church, which is of masonry construction, measures about 90 feet wide and 117 feet long. The outer wall is faced with rusticated Lemont limestone, a material similar to that used for the water tower in Chicago and in popular use for churches of the 1860s and 1870s. A stone water table runs around the perimeter of the building. The inner fabric is brick with larger pieces of

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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

the exterior stone penetrating completely through to bind the wall together. The roof is gabled with lower cross gables facing the north and south elevations. The church has two primary facades, the east and the north elevations. The south and the west elevations are somewhat obscured by the chapel and the school.

The east, or front, façade of the church faces onto Ashland Avenue. The high-pitched, front facing gabled roof is adorned with a cross at its apex. A small oculus is located beneath the roof's peak, above a large, Gothic-arched stained glass window with geometrical tracery and capped by a Gothic-arched window hood with cushion capitals at the spring line. The window is located above the entrance and provides light to the balcony area and sanctuary. The gabled composition of the main entrance protrudes about three feet from the wall and is capped with a finial. The entrance is recessed and has wood paneled double-doors topped with Gothic stone arches and quatrefoils within a larger Gothic-arched opening. This opening has another large stone quatrefoil in its center. On either side of the entrance is a segmental-arched window opening. The stained glass windows on the street level are intact and protected by Plexiglass.

The gabled portion of the façade is flanked by two spires; the larger spire is on the northeast corner and a smaller spire, which is about the same height as the cross. The larger spire is six-sided, with four inset dormers topped with finials and Gothic-arched windows. Crockets with finials also adorn the upper portions of the spire. The ridges of the spire, additional ornamentation, and the dormers are copper. The spire rests upon a 4 story stone tower; each story is divided by stone courses. The upper story is the lantern, with two Gothic-arched louver windows on each side. Stone corbels are located beneath the lantern's cornice. A rose window is located on each side of the tower's third story; a stone banding with quatrefoils tops is beneath this section's stone course. Gothic-arched stained windows with tracery are located within the second story level of the tower and segmental arched, louvered windows are in the first level. False buttresses adorn the corners of the tower and the front of the smaller spire. The smaller spire is adorned by crockets on all four sides, and louvered, Gothic-arched windows.

The roof pitch south of the smaller spire is about a 30 degree angle. A small Gothic-arched opening is located on the second story of this wall plane; a Gothic-arched



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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

window is located beneath it.

The north elevation faces onto Washington Street. Another gabled entrance, similar but less elaborate than the entrance on the east elevation, is located on the ground floor of the tower. On the tower's second story, "Union Park Congregation Church/ A. D. 1869" is carved into a stone plaque.

The gable has a large stained glass window, identical to the one on the front façade, on the upper story and five segmental-arched openings beneath the water table on the ground level. The gable is flanked by false buttresses. On either side of the gable is a long and narrow Gothic-arched window, located above the water table, and a smaller, squatter Gothic-arched opening beneath the water table. The south elevation is almost identical to the north elevation. A covered walkway on this elevation connects the church to the chapel.

The rear, or west elevation, has a large rose window beneath the roof's peak.

#### Interior

Due to the great width of the interior, the roof is a free span composed of a large wooden truss system. The ceiling is suspended from this truss. The beams of the truss, approximately 2 feet square, were prefabricated and bear the markings for their positioning and the name of the manufacturer. In 1927, deterioration of the trusses made it necessary to shore up, and restoration included the addition of metal tie-rods and collars to ensure its strength. This was done without affecting the design and integrity of the structure.

A broad vestibule is located on the ground floor and opens on to Ashland Avenue. Running the width of the façade, this vestibule is flanked by twin staircases leading to the sanctuary above on the main floor; there is also a large assembly hall and subsidiary service rooms at this level.

The sanctuary is entered from a vestibule at the main floor level and is similar to the one below which occupies the entire main floor. The floor is wood and the walls are

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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

plastered and trimmed in wood. Filling the apse above the pulpit and communion table is a huge pipe organ and the mechanical equipment is located directly behind the organ. The organ dominates the interior space; the pipes of the organ actually conceal four organs, two of which are located in the balcony. The organ was built by W.W. Kimball and company; designed by William Lester, it is the largest enclosed pipe organ that was ever made. The cost at the time of purchase was \$125, 000.00 which appraises in today's market at over \$1,000,000.00 The organ was not installed until 1927 and because of its size, structural work was needed in order to support and house it. The work was started in January 1927 and was not completed until June of the same year. The organ was dedicated on October 9, 1927.

Also in 1927, it became apparent that restoration was needed in the sanctuary and this room was closed. The timbers of the roof trusses had dried out and become extremely dangerous. Auxiliary roof trusses were installed, the foundations and walls were strengthened and the structure was completely redecorated. It is thought that \$150,000 was spent on the work. However it did not alter the church's architectural design and style.

In front of the organ on the main floor is the pulpit. The pulpit furniture and communion table were originally in the 1851 church. The top of the communion table was made of Italian marble. Twin staircases in the vestibule of the main floor level lead to the balcony above, which is cantilevered out from the exterior walls on all four sides and is further supported by cast iron columns. The balcony is gracefully shaped, curving gently away from the choir stand in the shape of a broad oval; the choir section located in front of the organ pipes is slightly convex. The balcony is made of wood with a wooden railing.

The sanctuary is lighted by ten narrow pointed, arched, stained glass windows flanking the nave, and one larger window in each end of the transept and the narthex . Behind the organ in the gable of the apse is a smaller round window. The stain glass windows continue from the main floor below through the balcony and upward. The sanctuary is further lighted by six chandeliers. The ceiling is peaked following the general outline of the cruciform shaped roof. It is plastered and detailed with wooden ribs, defining its structural shape. The ceiling springs from a wooded ledge embellished by Gothic

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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

tracery of carved wood.

The church has a wealth of symbolism in and about the building. The windows, the carvings, and the architectural features of the interior, have symbols dating from the early history of the Christian Church. Among the symbols are the grape leaf; the vine, the conventionalized fleur de lies, the trefoil, the quatrefoil, the roundel, the oak leaf and acorn, the shamrock, and the tongues of fire.

The trefoil is a modification of three interlaced circles and it is used to represent the Trinity. Each window in the auditorium has some form of this symbol. The quatrefoil may be representative of the four corners of the earth, the four winds of heaven and the four primary elements of earth, air, fire, and water. We also find the two used in a roundel which represents perfection.

The attic and bell tower located on the northeast corner can be reached through the continuation of the northern staircase of the vestibule. The attic space between the false ceiling and the roof is occupied by the wood truss system and is approximately 20 ft. high. It is lighted by small round windows at the end of the nave. The roof is slate.

#### Chapel

Immediately adjacent to the south is a smaller chapel (the Carpenter Chapel). The chapel is long and rectangular in shape. It is constructed of the same stone and similar in design to Union Park Congregational Church. The interior is plastered and trimmed in wood, and is treated more simply than the main church. Behind the pulpit is a pipe organ which extends the width of the building. Carpenter Chapel was designed by Otis Wheelock and built in 1869 for Chicago Theological Seminary. The chapel is historically associated with the church and is a contributing property.

#### Integrity

The church and chapel maintain sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Virtually no changes have occurred to the exterior of these buildings since they were constructed. The addition, which was built on the rear of the church, has not impacted the integrity of the church. The interiors are also largely unaltered.

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Outside of the work that occurred in 1927, the sanctuary of the church has not received any remodeling.

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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

Statement of Significance

Union Park Congregational Church, now known as First Baptist Congregational Church, is nationally significant under Criterion C for architecture. Constructed from 1869-1871, the Union Park Congregational Church is as an important and an early surviving example of the new and innovative auditorium or amphitheater sanctuary plan used by many main-line Protestant churches. Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel of Chicago is also significant for its Gothic Revival architecture. Constructed in 1869-71, the building embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Gothic Revival style. The period of significance is from 1869, when the chapel was completed, until 1927, when the church organ was built. The church and chapel meet Criteria Consideration A as a religious property that derives its primary significance from architecture.

Since the start of the Christian church, two plan types have dominated: the basilica and the central plan. The auditorium or amphitheater plan of Union Park Congregational Church is a wholly new and distinct plan type that was widely adopted by several Protestant denominations (Congregational, Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterians) during the 1870s and 1880s and survived well into the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This plan is a physical manifestation of the change in liturgy and worship style of these main-line Protestant denominations during the years after the Civil War, as they put emphasis on both preaching and the performance of music by paid musicians and large choirs.

According to architectural historian Jeanne Halgren Kilde, the auditorium plan was "derived from the basic form of the classical amphitheater and which harked back to Charles Finney's Broadway Tabernacle" of 1836.<sup>1</sup> Like the Broadway Tabernacle, this

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<sup>1</sup> Jeanne Halgren Kilde, *When Church Became Theater: The Transformation of Evangelical Architecture and Worship in Nineteenth-Century America*, (London: Oxford University Press, 2002), 113. The Broadway Tabernacle in New York City was located on Broadway at Anthony (later Worth) and Catherine Lane. It was designed for Rev. Charles Finney, was circular in plan with galleries around the second floor and designed by Joseph Ditto a local architect. The congregation moved out of the building in 1858 for a new traditional Gothic-style basilica plan church designed by Leopold Eidlitz.

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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

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new sanctuary arrangement included a raised stage platform near the center of the worship space, which contained the pulpit, altar, Communion table and chairs. Behind the pulpit platform were tiered rows of seats for the choir and musicians and a large case organ and pipes along the back wall. In front of the stage, curved pews were arranged in semicircular arcs, bisected by aisles that radiated out from the stage and up a sloping floor to the rear. Each congregation member then could comfortably both see and hear the preaching stage and in turn, be seen by the minister and others in the audience. Balcony seating that encircled three sides of the sanctuary is supported by thin cast iron columns, the only visual obstruction in these vast spaces with exceptional acoustics.

Kilde states that the fully developed auditorium plan first appeared in Chicago.<sup>2</sup> Edward Burling's First Methodist Church (demolished) of 1857, located in Chicago, was the first amphitheater plan church using a sloped floor since the advent of the Broadway Tabernacle.<sup>3</sup> In 1866 First Baptist Church (demolished), located on Wabash Avenue in the Loop, also used an auditorium plan. It had curved pews, around a central platform stage, but the floor did not slope like a traditional Greek amphitheater. The same year, in 1866, local architect Henry J. Gay completed The First Congregational Church (demolished), located at Ann and West Washington Streets in Chicago, with a sloped floor and "spatial cone" that became so prominent in the 1870s and 1880s for new large Protestant churches then being built by expanding congregations in the fringe of downtown and in the inner ring suburbs.<sup>4</sup> Two years later in 1868 in Boston, Isaac B. Samuels used the auditorium plan for his Church of the Disciples.<sup>5</sup> Finally in 1869

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid. Footnote 4, 249 states "The question of which was the first auditorium church is one that I have avoided, because it is so difficult to isolate the origins of any architectural phenomenon. The four 1860s examples I cite as the earliest, were, of course, preceded by the Broadway Tabernacle, and isolated British and European examples also occurred. Even so, it was not until the buildings of the 1860s that the auditorium sanctuary became a distinct church type."

<sup>3</sup> Anne C. Loveland and Otis Buheeler, *From Meetinghouse to Mega Church: A Material and Cultural History*. (Columbia MO: University of Missouri Press, 2003), 49.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 113.

<sup>5</sup> This church building is now owned by Concord Baptist Church, and was restored in 1977 after a fire. See <http://www.cbcboston.org>.

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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

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Gurdon P. Randall began construction of Union Park Congregational Church (now First Baptist Congregational Church); the only church of these pioneers in auditorium design in Chicago that remains standing and is wholly intact.

Over the next two decades the auditorium plan type would be used for hundreds of Methodist, Baptist, Congregational and Presbyterian churches in towns and cities throughout the United States and would become a nationally significant plan type in the architectural design of houses of worship.

#### Gothic Revival Architecture

The Gothic Revival style was an immensely popular, varied and influential building type in both the United States and Europe during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The Gothic Revival church, echoing its medieval inspirations, created a picturesque effect through variety, irregularity and construction.<sup>6</sup> An important design element in this architectural style is the tower with the belfry. Such towers and belfries may be flat or topped by a spire or may rise from the roof ridge as a bell cote. This style always features a pointed arch, deeply recessed window openings, either appearing singly or grouped, steeply pitched roofs, quatrefoil windows, deep chancels, cruciform plans, and wooden doors with heavy iron strap hinges are other Gothic Revival stylistic devices.<sup>7</sup>

Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel of Chicago display an abundance of the details associated with the Gothic Revival style. Their design elements typify soaring verticality, which is essential to Gothic Revival design. The steeply pitched roofs and lancet windows on the all facades are indicative of the style, as is the transept on the rear of the church structure. The ceilings are peaked, following the general outline of the cruciform shaped roof. The church ceiling springs from a wooden ledge embellished by Gothic tracery carved wood. The bell tower and spire reflect the same graceful flowing verticality essential to Gothic Revival design. The buildings were constructed with a skin of thick heavy limestone masonry and carved

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<sup>6</sup> Phoebe Stanton, *The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture; an episode in taste, 1840-1860* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1968), p. 137.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, p. 138.

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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

stone ornamental panels that reflect elements of Gothic Revival design. Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel were prime examples of religious Gothic Revival architecture in Chicago at the time of their construction and remain so today.

Comparisons

Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel are stellar examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Chicago, fitting well within the context of other local examples of Gothic Revival design. The Cathedral of Saint James located at 63 East Huron was designed in the Gothic style in 1870. The Cathedral of Saint James Church also features a bell tower although it lacks a spire. Holy Name Cathedral, located at 735 North State Street, was designed in the Gothic style by Patrick Charles Keely between 1874 and 1875. Holy Name Cathedral has a similar set of gable and tower orientation but lacks the tall narrow pointed stained glass windows flanking the nave, which is prevalent in the Gothic Revival Style.

Church Architect Gurden P. Randall

The church was designed by architect Gurdon P. Randall, who was considered prolific in designing Gothic Revival churches. He studied architecture at the Boston office of Asher Benjamin. He practiced architecture in Chicago for 34 years after arriving in the city at the age of thirty. His work was better known at that time than any other architect in the west. He concentrated mainly on school houses, churches and court houses. In his design of Union Park Congregational Church, he initiated the amphitheater seating arrangement which has been copied by many. His design of the church brought him great fame as an ecclesiastical architect. Randall was described in the October 1884 issue of *Inland Architect* "As an architect of the old school, always true to the principle of his art, and designing with a positive expression, his works will long stand as examples of the thorough work of a thorough man."

His legacy includes but is not limited to designing the Spaulding Building built in 1872 and Plymouth Congregational Church in 1867-71 which was destroyed by fire. He designed the old St Mary Paulist Church which replaced the Plymouth Congregational Church.



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Early History of the Church and the Near West Neighborhood

Although the edifices of the Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel were being built in 1869, the congregation dates back to 1851. At that time a group of 48 abolitionist members left the parent church, the Third Presbyterian, over the slavery issue. The departing members felt that the General Assembly of the church had not adopted a strong enough position against slavery. A man by the name of Philo Carpenter led the dissidents into their own congregation in May of 1851. In addition to housing worship services, the old church was used as a way station in the Underground Railroad for escaping slaves. During those years, the chapel was derogatorily known as "Carpenter's Nigger Chapel."

Philo Carpenter, known as the founder of the Congregationalism in the Chicago region, was born in Savoy, Massachusetts, in 1805. He arrived in Chicago in July of 1832. Deeply religious, he organized the first Sunday School service in Fort Dearborn the Sunday after he arrived in Chicago. This evolved into the Home Sunday School of the First Presbyterian Church. Carpenter was Chicago's first druggist, opening a drug store in a small log home on a bank of the river at the point that is now Lake Street. Not only was he instrumental in founding the First Congregational church in 1851, but he also helped to organize the First Presbyterian Church in 1833 and the Third Presbyterian Church in 1847. The Chicago Theological Seminary was greatly aided by him through his generosity in giving funds (totaling \$6000) and the Carpenter Chapel which is now part of the First Congregational Church. A marble bust of Carpenter was executed by Lorado Taft, and for a period of time it was located in the chapel. He was also member of Chicago's first Board of Education (Carpenter School erected in 1868 was named after him), managing director of the Chicago Bible Society, and an incorporator of the Relief Aid Society. His home was located at Washington and Carpenter Streets and occupied an entire block. Carpenter died on August 8, 1886.

The congregation of Union Park Congregational Church moved several times until the present structure was erected. Its predecessor was a small wooden chapel which was enlarged in 1865 and again in 1867 and burned in 1869. (This is evidenced by the plaque on the north wall of the tower). Prompted by the action of a Reverend Charles D. Helmer, the present building was planned and the cornerstone laid on August 7,

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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

1869. Andreas reported in *Fronting on Union Park* "that it is one of the most desirable sites in Chicago and is no mean ornament to that portion of the city."

The church was built in the Near West Side, located due west of downtown Chicago. The neighborhood saw its earliest development in the 1840s as lumberyards, foundries, and flour mills were built along the South Branch of the Chicago River, the area's eastern boundary. The area's population increased rapidly during the 1850s and 1860s, as early settlers clustered near these industries, erecting frame houses east of Halsted and south of Harrison.

During the 1860s the area along Washington Boulevard between Halsted and Ashland was developing into one of the city's finest residential neighborhoods. The Groesbeck House, 1304 W. Washington (1869), is one of the few remaining buildings from that era. The area's desirability was heightened by nearby Union Park, and many wealthy residents attended the Union Park Congregational Church, 46 N. Ashland (1869).

One of the defining events of Chicago history was the fire of 1871, which began in the eastern edge of the Near West Side at 1001 S. Jefferson. The site is marked by a modern sculpture depicting the event. Government offices were set up at Union Park Congregational Church to provide emergency services and housed those residents whose homes were destroyed by fire.<sup>8</sup>

On August 8, 1944, Rev. and Mrs. Henry McCrory, Mrs. Dora Ollief, Mrs. Willa May Smith and Ms. Henrietta Harrison, organized the Mozart Baptist Church located at 114 North Mozart Street. In 1971, under the leadership of Dr. Arthur D. Griffin, the former president of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago, the congregation was officially affiliated with Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ and changed its name

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<sup>8</sup> Grace Moore, "History of Union Park." The First Baptist Congregational Church of Chicago Centennial Celebration, 1851 - 1951.

NPS Form 10-900-a  
OMB No. 1024-0018  
(8-86)

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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

to First Congregational Church of Chicago; because of denominational purposes, that name was changed to First Baptist Congregational Church in 1977.

The church continues to function as the home of the First Baptist Congregational Church, which recognizes its architectural significance. The church was designated a City of Chicago Landmark on January 21, 1982. When the neighborhood was surveyed for the Chicago Historic Resources Survey in 1987, the church was given a red designation, the highest level of significance given to only two hundred of the more than 17,000 properties that were identified in the survey. The church has excellent integrity and architectural significance and merits listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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OMB No. 1024-0018  
(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

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NPS Form 10-900-a  
OMB No. 1024-0018  
(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

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NPS Form 10-900-a  
OMB No. 1024-0018  
(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, Cook County, Illinois**

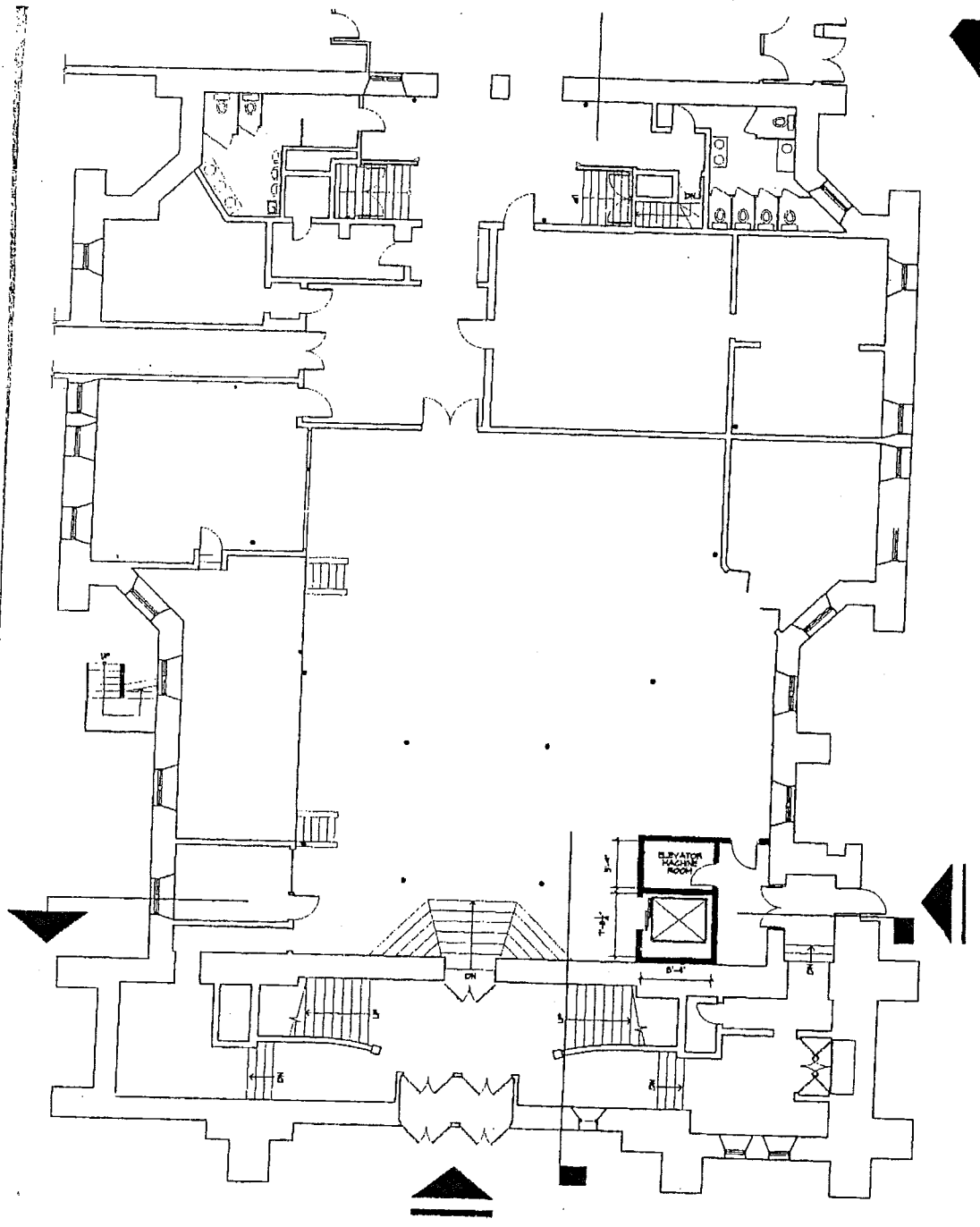
Boundary Description:

Parcel 1: Lots 1 to 10 in Carpenter's Subdivision of Lot 1 and the East 30 feet of Lot 2 in Block 64 in Canal Trustees' Subdivision of Section 7, Township 39 North, Range 14 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois

Parcel 2: (Excepting there from the West 45 feet and excepting there from that part conveyed by Abbie E. Ellis and her husband to August Korth by Quit Claim Deed dated May 22, 1895 and recorded November 13, 1896 as document 2463500) in Assessors Division of Lots 3 to 7 and part of Lot 2 in Block 64 in Canal Trustees' Subdivision aforesaid all in Cook County, Illinois.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes Union Park Congregational Church, Carpenter Chapel, which are connected and historically associated with the property.

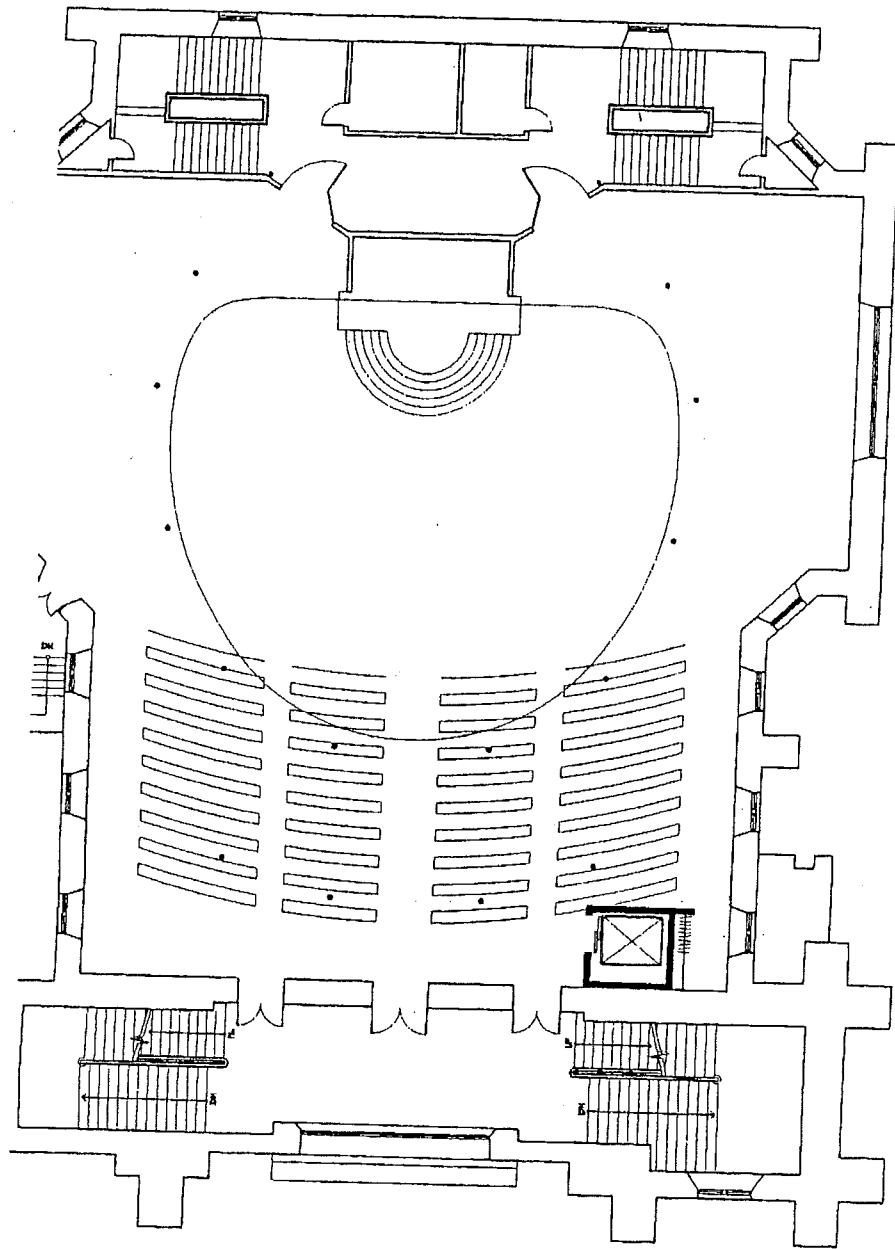


GROUND

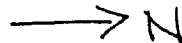
Union Park Congregational Church  
Cook Co, IL

ASHLAND AVENUE → N



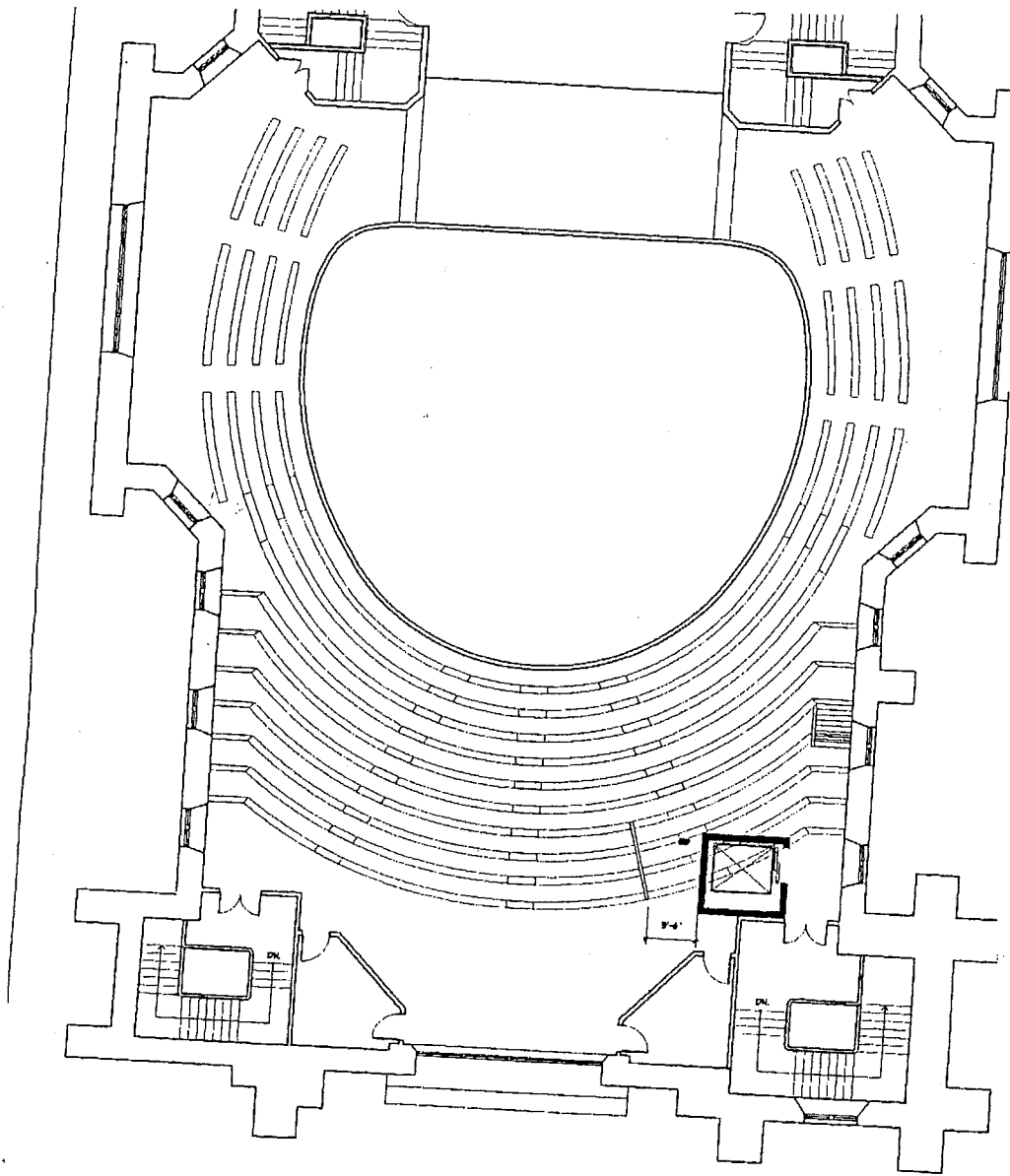


SANCTUARY



Union Park Congregational Church  
Cook Co, IL

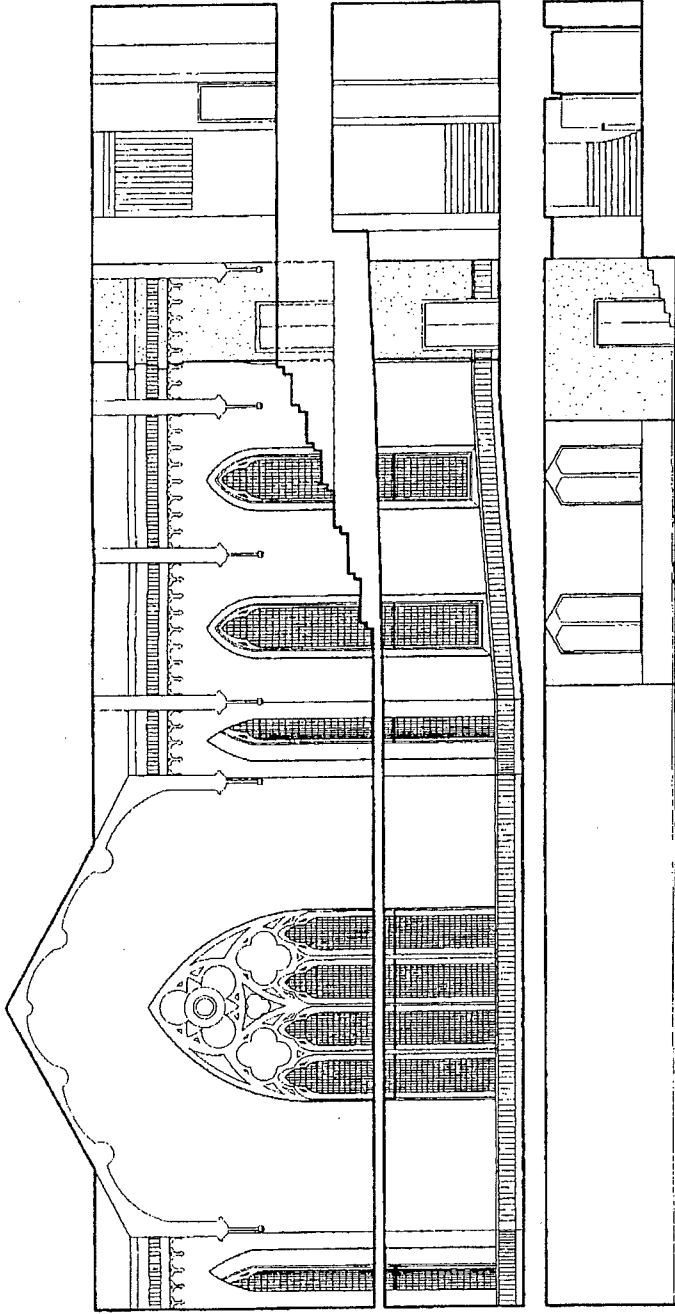




BALCONY

Union Park Congregational Church  
Cook Co, IL

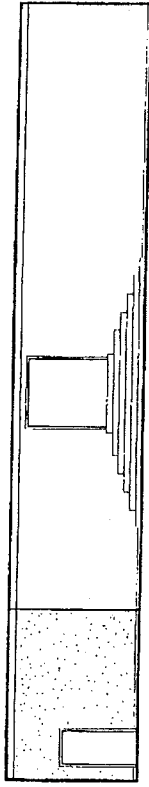
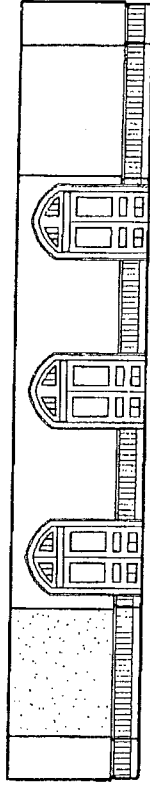
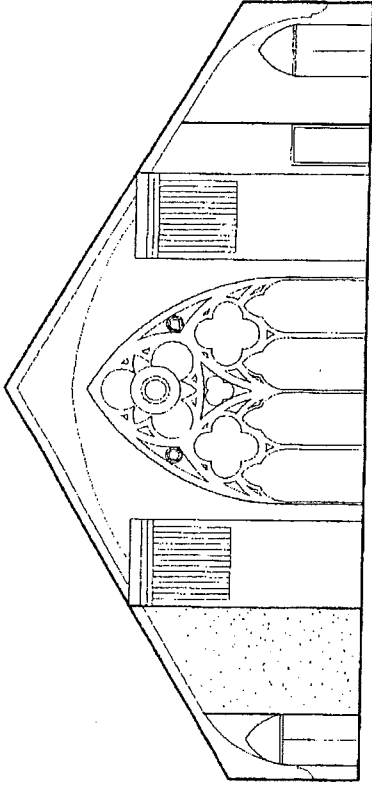
1 Floor Plans → N  
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"



# 1 Transverse Section

SCALE : 3/32" = 1'-0"

Union Park Congregational Church  
Cook Co, IL



## 2 Cross Section

SCALE : 3/32" = 1'-0"

Union Park Congregational Church  
Cook Co, IL

# THE MESSAGE

JULY, 1908.



1908 photograph of Church & Chapel



**Illinois Historic  
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1512 • Teletypewriter Only (217) 524-7128

Voice (217) 782-4836

[www.illinois-history.gov](http://www.illinois-history.gov)

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor of the City of Chicago  
Brian Goeken, Landmarks Division, Department of Planning and Development

FROM: Amy Easton, Assistant Coordinator, National Register and Survey *AHE*

DATE: December 28, 2005

SUBJECT: Preliminary Opinion on the Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel, 46-60 North Ashland Avenue/1613 West Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois

Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel of Chicago, presently known as the First Baptist Congregational Church, meet National Register Criterion C for architecture as a good local example of the Gothic Revival style. Constructed in 1869-71, the design of the buildings embodies the distinctive characteristics of Gothic Revival architecture. The period of significance is from 1869, when the chapel was completed, until 1871, when the church was built. The church and chapel meet Criteria Consideration A as a religious property that derives its primary significance from architecture.

In 1987 Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel of Chicago received a red rating in the Chicago Historic Resources Survey; it was designated a Chicago Landmark on January 21, 1982. The property has sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



City of Chicago  
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Planning  
and Development

Lori T. Healey  
Commissioner

Suite 1600  
33 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
(312) 744-3200  
(312) 744-9140 (FAX)  
(312) 744-2578 (TTY)

<http://www.cityofchicago.org>

March 2, 2006

Tracey A. Sculle  
Survey & National Register Coordinator  
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
1 Old State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62702

**Re: Chicago nominations to the National Register of Historic Places  
for**

- Lou Mitchell's Restaurant, 565 W. Jackson Blvd.
- Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel,  
(Now First Baptist Congregational Church), 1613 W.  
Washington Blvd.
- Bohemian National Cemetery, Bounded by Foster Ave.,  
Pulaski Rd., Bryn Mawr Ave., and Central Park Ave.
- Lake Shore Drive West Historic District, 303 W. Barry  
Ave., 325, 330-342 W. Wellington Ave., and 340 W.  
Oakdale Ave.
- Krause Music Store, 4611 N. Lincoln Ave.

Dear Ms. Sculle:

This is in response to your letters of February 17, 2006, to Mayor Richard M. Daley and the Commission on Chicago Landmarks asking for the Commission's comments on the nominations of the properties referenced above to the National Register of Historic Places. As a Certified Local Government (CLG), the City of Chicago is given the opportunity to comment on local nominations to the National Register prior to being considered by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council.

At its regular meeting of March 2, 2006, the Commission voted unanimously to support the National Register listings for all five nominations. The Commission's resolution is attached.

Please contact Terry Tatum of my staff at 312-744-9147 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian Goeken  
Deputy Commissioner  
Landmarks Division



- the Lake Shore Drive West Historic District, located on the eastern edge of the Lake View neighborhood, meets Criterion C for architecture, and its period of significance is 1913, when the first house was built, to 1930, the date of the district's last house; and
- the Krause Music Store, a two-story commercial building located in the Lincoln Square neighborhood, is the last work of architect Louis Sullivan and is an excellent example of his work. The building meets Criterion C for architecture, and its period of significance is 1922, the year of its construction.

*Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks that it hereby supports the listing of all five nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.*

Resolution  
by the  
Commission on Chicago Landmarks  
on the  
Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places  
for the

**Lou Mitchell's Restaurant, 565 W. Jackson Blvd.**

**Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel,  
(Now First Baptist Congregational Church), 1613 W. Washington Blvd.**

**Bohemian National Cemetery,  
Bounded by Foster Ave., Pulaski Rd., Bryn Mawr Ave., and Central Park Ave.**

**Lake Shore Drive West Historic District,  
303 W. Barry Ave., 325, 330-342 W. Wellington Ave., and 340 W. Oakdale Ave.**

**Krause Music Store, 4611 N. Lincoln Ave.**

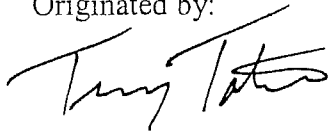
December 1, 2005

The Commission on Chicago Landmarks finds that:

- the Lou Mitchell's Restaurant building, built in 1949, meets Criterion A for commerce and transportation for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, a federal initiative to document properties associated with Route 66. The period of significance is from 1949, when the restaurant was constructed, to 1956, the fifty-year cut off for significance to the National Register; and
- the Union Park Congregation Church and Carpenter Chapel, now the First Baptist Congregational Church, meets Criterion C for architecture, and its period of significance is from 1869, when the chapel was completed, to 1871, when the church building was built. It also meets Criteria Consideration A as a religious property that derives its primary significance from architecture; and
- Bohemian National Cemetery meets Criterion A for Ethnic Heritage and Criterion C for Architecture, Art and Landscape Architecture for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The period of significance is 1877, when the cemetery was first developed, to 1956, the fifty-year cut off for significance to the National Register; and



Originated by:



Terry Tatum  
Director of Research  
Landmarks Division

encl.

cc: Alderman Madeline L. Haithcock, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
Alderman Margaret Laurino, 39<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Alderman Thomas Tunney, 44<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Alderman Eugene C. Schulter, 47<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Philip Thomason  
Teresa Douglass  
Kathryn K. Thanas  
William B. Sieger, Northeastern Illinois University  
Bohemian National Cemetery Association  
Diane Kallenback, 39<sup>th</sup> Ward Office  
Peter and Pooja Vukosavich  
Linda Peters, PhD  
Kathy Caisley, DPD  
Terri Haymaker, DPD  
Mary Bonome, DPD  
Danita Childers, DPD  
Don Hohenadel, DPD  
Val Zillig, DPD

NORMAN WILLIS  
Chairman of Deacon Ministry

THOMAS MARKS  
Chairman of Trustee Ministry

AUDREY GAYLORD  
Church Clerk

A Designated Chicago Landmark  
**First Baptist Congregational Church**

1613 W. Washington Blvd. \* Chicago, IL 60612

(312) 243-8047 \* Fax (312) 243-9789

Email: [office@fbcc-chicago.net](mailto:office@fbcc-chicago.net)

Rev. George W. Daniels  
Senior Pastor

IDA VINSON  
Church Secretary

JANNIE EVANS  
Treasurer

ALBERTA SAFFOLD  
Membership Secretary

March 28, 2006

Amy Easton  
Assistant Coordinator  
National Register and Survey

Fax: (217) 524-7525

First Baptist Congregational Church and Junior Church (Carpenter Chapel) have not changed since the photographs were taken in 2004.

Sincerely,



Anna Willis, Coordinator  
Rev. George W. Daniels, Senior Pastor

Juneau, 06000463,  
LISTED, 6/07/06

ARIZONA, MARICOPA COUNTY,  
Earll Place Historic District,  
1620-1722 E. Pinchot Ave., 1617-1731 and 1736 E. Earll Dr.,  
Phoenix, 06000468,  
LISTED, 6/09/06

ARIZONA, MARICOPA COUNTY,  
Floralcroft Historic District,  
Roughly bounded by State St., 59th Ave., Myrtle St., Grand Ave. and 61st  
Ave.,  
Glendale, 05001505,  
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 6/08/06

ARKANSAS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY,  
Cogburn Dipping Vat,  
W of Forest Service Rd. 73, E of Montgomery County Rd 1 S of its jct. with AR  
8,  
Black Spring vicinity, 06000467,  
LISTED, 6/07/06  
(Dip That Tick:Texas Tick Fever Eradication in Arkansas MPS)

ARKANSAS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY,  
Guinn Dipping Vat,  
S of Forest Service Rd. 37 W of US 70,  
Mauldin, 06000465,  
LISTED, 6/07/06  
(Dip That Tick:Texas Tick Fever Eradication in Arkansas MPS)

ARKANSAS, SCOTT COUNTY,  
Dooley Dipping Vat,  
Off Dooley Rd. E of Forest Service Rd. 925,  
Boles vicinity, 06000466,  
LISTED, 6/07/06  
(Dip That Tick:Texas Tick Fever Eradication in Arkansas MPS)

ARKANSAS, SCOTT COUNTY,  
Square Rock Dipping Vat,  
NW of jct. of Forest Service Rds. 296 and 565A,  
Waldron vicinity, 06000464,  
LISTED, 6/07/06  
(Dip That Tick:Texas Tick Fever Eradication in Arkansas MPS)

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,  
Union Park Congregational Church and Carpenter Chapel,  
1613 W. Washington Blvd.,  
Chicago, 06000446,  
LISTED, 5/31/06

KANSAS, ATCHISON COUNTY,  
Lincoln School,  
801 Division St.,